

FULCRUM

QUARTERLY JOURNAL

VICTORIA LOCAL,
SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA
P.O. BOX 237, VICTORIA, B.C.

Produced by socialist volunteers.

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH SOCIALIST THOUGHT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.
SUBSCRIBE TO THESE SOCIALIST JOURNALS NOW.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 8 ISSUES \$1.00
POSTAGE - CANADA-U.S. .50
OVERSEAS 1.00

BUNDLE RATES (POSTAGE INCLUDED)
50 COPIES PER ISSUE \$5.00
25 COPIES PER ISSUE 3.00
8 COPIES PER ISSUE 1.00

ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND \$_____ IN SUBSCRIPTIONS TO (Please underline)

FULCRUM	JOURNAL OF VICTORIA LOCAL, SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA	8 ISSUES	\$1.00
		POSTAGE	.50
		overseas	1.00
WESTERN SOCIALIST	JOURNAL OF SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA & WORLD SOCIALIST PARTY OF U.S.	12 ISSUES	2.50
SOCIALIST STANDARD	JOURNAL OF SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN	12 ISSUES	2.00
INTERNATIONALES FREIS WORT (GERMAN)	JOURNAL OF LEAGUE OF DEMO- CRATIC SOCIALISTS (AUSTRIA)	12 ISSUES	2.00
SOCIALIST VIEWPOINT	JOURNAL OF SOCIALIST PARTY OF NEW ZEALAND	8 ISSUES	1.00
SOCIALIST REVIEW	JOURNAL OF JAMAICA SOCIALIST GROUP	12 ISSUES	1.00

I WISH ALSO TO MAKE A DONATION OF
FOR THE CONTINUATION OF SOCIALIST ACTIVITIES.

TOTAL

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____

MAIL ORDER TO:
SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA
P.O. BOX 237,
VICTORIA, B.C.

THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

OBJECT:

The establishment of a system of society based upon the common ownership and democratic control of the means and instruments for producing and distributing wealth by and in the interest of society as a whole.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

The Companion Parties of Socialism hold:

1. That society as at present constituted is based upon the ownership of the means of living (i.e., land, factories, railways, etc.) by the capitalist or master class, and the consequent enslavement of the working class, by whose labor alone wealth is produced.
2. That in society, therefore, there is an antagonism of interests, manifesting itself as a class struggle between those who possess but do not produce, and those who produce but do not possess.
3. That this antagonism can be abolished only by the emancipation of the working class from the domination of the master class by the conversion into the common property of society of the means of production and distribution, and their democratic control by the whole people.
4. That as in the order of social evolution the working class is the last class to achieve its freedom, the emancipation of the working class will involve the emancipation of all mankind, without distinction of race or sex.
5. That this emancipation must be the work of the working class itself.
6. That as the machinery of government, including the armed forces of the nation, exists only to conserve the monopoly by the capitalist class of the wealth taken from the workers, the working class must organize consciously and politically for the conquest of the powers of government, in order that this machinery, including these forces, may be converted from an instrument of oppression into the agent of emancipation and overthrow of plutocratic privilege.
7. That as political parties are but the expression of class interests, and as the interest of the working class is diametrically opposed to the interest of all sections of the master class, the party seeking working class emancipation must be hostile to every other party.
8. THE COMPANION PARTIES OF SOCIALISM, therefore, enter the field of political action determined to wage war against all other political parties, whether alleged labor or avowedly capitalist, and call upon all members of the working class of these countries to support these principles to the end that a termination may be brought to the system which deprives them of the fruits of their labor, and that poverty may give place to comfort, privilege to equality, and slavery to freedom.

Those agreeing with the above principles and desiring enrollment in the Party should apply for Application for Membership from the sec'y of nearest local or the Nat'l Hdqtrs.

These seven parties adhere to the same Socialist Principles:

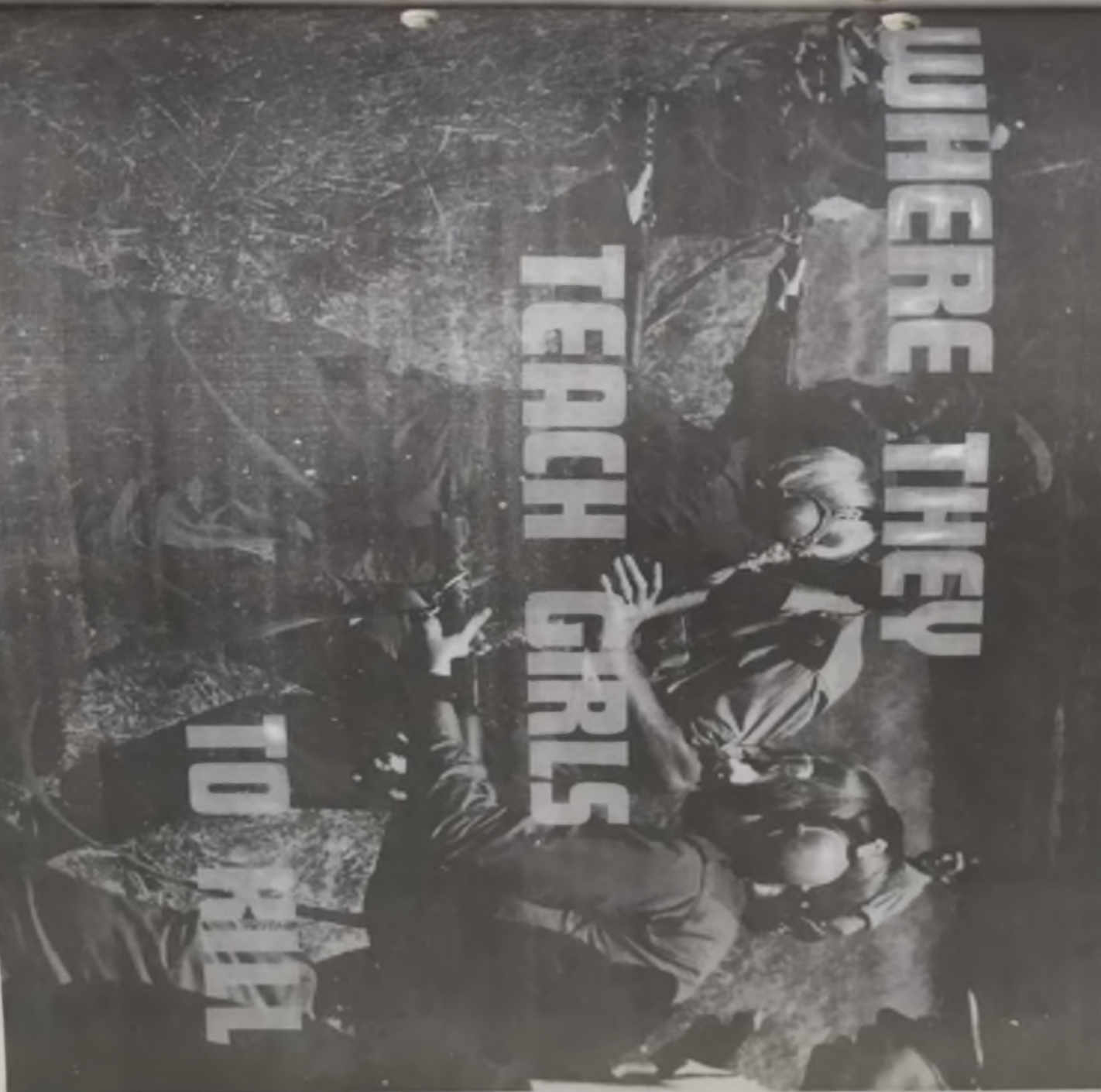
LEAGUE OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS — Gussriegelstrasse 50, A-1160 Vienna, Austria.
SOCIALIST PARTY OF AUSTRALIA — P. O. Box 1440, Melbourne, Box 2291, GPO, Sydney, P. O. Box 1357, Brisbane.
SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA — P. O. Box 237, Victoria, B. C.
SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN — 52 Clapham High St., London SW. 4.
SOCIALIST PARTY OF NEW ZEALAND — P. O. Box 38062, Petone, New Zealand;
P. O. Box 1929, Auckland, New Zealand.
WORLD SOCIALIST PARTY OF IRELAND — 13 Queens Sq., Belfast, N. Ireland.
WORLD SOCIALIST PARTY OF U. S.—295 Huntington Ave., Boston, Mass. 02115.

FULCRUM

Quarterly
Journal of Victoria Local,
Socialist Party of Canada
P.O. Box 237, Victoria, B.C.

15¢

Vol 6
1973
No 2



GIRLIE GET YOUR GUN

The caption on this issue of FULCRUM's cover might better have read "Why they teach girls to kill". Is this the ultimate aim of "Women's liberation" --- to be equal in every way to their male counterparts? Are there not, after all, more pleasant activities for girls? Do they not play grass lacross, baseball and even football and hockey? Is it not even better for some Archie Bunker to relegate them to making cookies and petit-point? Better than learn to be professional killers would it not even be better to become two dollar whores?

But capitalism has its priorities and whether the girls be in London or Paris, Moscow or Peking the commodities of wage labour production must be sold and each nation must protect its interests from its fellow national predators in the jungle of the world market place. So it is that in its driving quest for sales and profits capitalism will abuse and debase anything or anyone to that end.

Oh yes! Where did this occur? If you want a girl just like the girl who could shoot like dear old dad, you don't have to go to Yugoslavia. You don't have to go to Israel or Spain. Go where flower baskets hang from lamp-posts, where the phoney English "Ye Olde Tea Shoppe" panders to the semi-literate Yankee dollar. Go to quaint little old serene Victoria. For that is where the Canadian Girls In Training receive the fine points of legalized murder from the Canadian Army.

It should be educational that when this picture appeared in the local press not one "do-gooder" reformist organization raised its voice in alarm. Neither should they be expected to, for this sort of thing is normal under capitalism. And all reformist organizations have one thing in common. They all embrace capitalism.

Neither do socialists protest such abominations, but for different reasons. Socialists realize the futility of attempting reforms and protests against capitalism's evils, so instead set their ship toward abolition of the evil rather than wasting time improving its chains. Is it not time YOU pulled a bit on YOUR oar?

SOCIALISME MONDIAL PUBLIE PAR LE PARTI Socialiste du Canada -- Which means that the new French journal SOCIALISME MONDIAL is now ready to go to press. The first issue should be available about May 1st. The first issue will run 16 pages and subscription rate will be 6 issues for \$1. Subscribers should apply to -- le Parti Socialiste du Canada, C.P. 244, Pointe-Aux-Trembles 500, Québec. FULCRUM hails this great new effort on the part of socialists in Québec, England, France and Belgium.

QUEBEC SPARKPLUG

A great deal of the credit for initiating SOCIALISME MONDIAL must go to Serge Huard. Not only is Huard to be admired for his part in this great undertaking, but his numerous advertisements placed in eastern papers are bringing in the biggest response that the Socialist party of Canada has seen for a long long long time. Bien Comrade Huard -- a job well done.

SOCIALIST IN JAIL FOR REFUSING TO KILL

All socialists, of course, refuse to take part in military service on the grounds that they have no interest in killing their fellow workers for the sake of one group of capitalists competing against their parasitic counterparts elsewhere. It has been some time since persecution has been noted for adherence to this very sound principle. Near the end of W.W.1 Ginger Goodwin was shot in the back by a B.C. Provincial Police constable for his draft avoidance. During W.W.2, while socialists in England were successful in arguing their cases on the grounds of conscience in Canada many socialists were forced to hide out or escape to the United States -- a reverse traffic to that of recent years. It is therefore strange to hear that at a time of so-called peace a socialist has been jailed for refusing military service. No -- not in the United States, but in Sweden. This reveals the hypocrisy of Sweden's criticism of the U.S. In Viet Nam and kicks hell out of the fraudulent claim that Sweden's state capitalism has something to do with socialism. It is hoped that arguments on behalf of our Swedish comrade can help to soon obtain his release.

The ABC of Inflation

3

INTRODUCTION

The following article from the Oct/72 *SOCIALIST STANDARD* (journal of Socialist Party of Great Britain) is reproduced here because it helps explain inflation here, as well as in other countries where currency has been devalued. Some governments do this on the advice of Keynesian theorists, who turn a blind eye to the Marxian analysis of capitalism. It has long been known that an oversupply of incontrovertible currency inevitably results in its depreciation, which is inflation or higher prices. For example, from the years 1954 to 1970 Canadian governments increased the amount of currency in circulation by 3.15 times the increase in the Gross National Product.* The present government is still devaluing currency by increasing its supply. As revealed in its Annual Report the Bank of Canada has "...pursued an expansionary monetary policy throughout 1972 to help stimulate a demand for goods and services thereby generating more jobs"

It is part of the general purpose of the Companion Parties of Socialism to explain the nature of world capitalism to the majority, the working class, so they will be able to act effectively against poverty, insecurity, war and the other problems of their existence.

* figures from Bank of Canada

THE LABOUR PARTY and the Tory Party accuse each other of being responsible for the continuing rise of prices, but there is absolutely nothing to choose between the records of the two parties. Measured by the government's own Retail Price Indexes, the Labour government 1945-51 scored a 28 per cent rise and the Labour government 1964-70 another 30 per cent (of the 1964 level); while the Tories marked up 50 per cent between 1951 and 1964 and another 17 per cent (of the 1970 level) between 1970 and June 1972. Added to the 32 per cent rise recorded between 1939 and 1945 under the National government (admitted to be an understatement), the present price level is at least four times what it was before the war.

In 1944 the three parties—Tory, Labour and Liberal—in the National government committed themselves to do what they could after the war "to stabilise prices", and at each of the eight general elections Labour and Tories both repeated the promise—and it hasn't meant a thing.

Individual prices can rise (or fall) for several different reasons. Good harvests will reduce prices and bad harvests will raise them. Booming trade increases demand and sends prices up, bad trade will send them down again. Even against the present trend of rising prices



"prosperity" at any price.

metal prices fell heavily last year as demand slackened off—the price of copper fell by 40 per cent. Improved methods of production, by reducing the amount of labour required, will operate to lower prices, while the exhaustion of easily accessible seams of mineral ores (coal and metals) will operate the other way because mining at greater depths or in less rich seams requires more labour to produce each ton.

During the nineteenth century when all of these price factors operated the general price levels in Britain went up in some periods and down in others, or remained nearly stationary, but the extent of the movement up and down was always within a range of about 25 per cent either way—nothing like the 300 per cent added since September 1939. Wages also rose and fell during the nineteenth century; sometimes in line with the movement of prices, sometimes by more or less, and occasionally wages moved in the opposite direction to prices.

Fallacies

All sorts of explanations have been offered for the abnormal rise of prices since 1939 as compared with the up-and-down movements of prices in the nineteenth century. Most of the so-called explanations take the

form of blaming some group or other for being "greedy"; bankers, or manufacturers, or retailers or trade unionists. It is an explanation that a glance at certain facts will show to be nonsense. Did the copper companies reduce their prices by 40 per cent in 1971 because they had suddenly become less greedy? Between 1948 and 1968 prices rose by 100 per cent in Britain, but only by half that amount in America and Switzerland: are the British twice as greedy? In the nineteenth century did the whole population go through alternating phases of being more greedy and less greedy? Between the end of 1920 and the middle of 1933 prices fell by over 50 per cent. The fall was continuous for thirteen years. What had happened to greed?

The fact is that sellers always try to get as big a price as they can, "as much as the market will bear", and if they can get more or are forced to take less it is because external circumstances over which they have little or no control determine that it shall be so.

Two popular beliefs are that prices go up because wages go up, or vice versa. It does not occur to those who hold one or the other view that wages are prices—the price the worker gets for the sale of his labour-power, his mental and physical energies, to the employer. So, properly stated, their two propositions become the single useless assertion that prices go up because prices go up.

If they re-stated it in the form that one group of prices (wages) go up because the other group of prices go up—or vice versa—they overlook the truth that both groups of prices go up because of common external factors which affect both of them, more or less to the same extent. To illustrate this we can note that in summers when more Londoners visit the country the harvests are good. Nobody asks whether it is the London visitors who make the corn ripen, or whether it is the ripened corn which attracts the visitors. It just happens that a long hot summer both produces the good harvest and attracts visitors to the country—the sun is the common cause of both.

Paper & Prices

The new factor which has operated to push up prices abnormally since the war—the "sun" in relation to prices and wages—has been the continuous and accelerating "depreciation of the currency". In the nineteenth century the amount of notes and coin in circulation was controlled by the device, enforced by law, that the pound sterling was a fixed weight (about a quarter of an ounce) of gold, and Bank of England notes were always convertible on demand into the corresponding weight of gold. Nowadays the pound is an inconvertible paper currency and enormous additional amounts have been printed and put into circulation. In 1939 the total of notes and coin in the hands of the public was £454 million. It is now over £3,500 million and rising steadily, an amount far in excess of whatever increase would have been necessary in line with the actual increase in production and sales of goods.

Karl Marx, whose study of the subject has never been rivalled, enunciated the economic law in the form that

if the amount of inconvertible paper currency exceeds the amount of gold that would be needed if gold coins circulated, the excess simply operates to push up prices. Before Keynesian doctrines were swallowed by most of the modern economists and politicians, this relationship between excess issues of inconvertible notes and the price level was generally accepted by economists (including Keynes). In 1919 the government deliberately put a stop to the issue of additional notes and this played a large part in the subsequent fall of prices. Now the political parties and the trade unions have deceived themselves, against all past experience, into the belief that what they call increasing "money supply" leads to greater production and the maintenance of "full employment".

Facing Facts

Not quite all of the economists and financial authorities have swallowed the "new economics". One exception is the First National City Bank of New York which, in its *Monthly Bulletin* for January 1970, ridiculed the notion that rising prices are due to greed or to the wage demands of trade unions:

Most of the blame for inflation is misplaced. For although inflation has a hundred faces, it has but one essential cause: overly expansive and erratic monetary policy that has pushed up the quantity of money more swiftly than the quantity of goods and services.

Governments, even if they perceived the truth of this, are afraid to repeat the restrictive policy applied in 1919 because they think it might lead to a big depression and much heavier unemployment. The economist Lord Robbins, speaking in the House of Lords on 5th July, said:

I know of no case in history where inflation of the order of magnitude of that from which we are now suffering has been stopped by measures of this sort without that sort of effect.

The government's view, according to Patrick Jenkin, Chief Secretary of the Treasury, is that while curbing the money supply would affect prices it would do so only after a considerable time lag:—"The immediate effect would be increased unemployment and reduced output. As a solution, it was politically, wholly unacceptable". (*Financial Times* 17 July) They Lord Robbins and Jenkin, are equally afraid that continued and accelerating depreciation of the currency may end with the kind of monetary collapse that Germany experienced between the wars.

Most workers believe that if only prices came down or were at least stabilised their chief troubles would be over. They should remember that while it is true that at present hundreds of thousands of workers cannot afford to buy a house on mortgage, exactly the same was true between the wars when prices of houses and prices in general (and wages) were only a fraction of what they are now. For the workers capitalism means hardship whether prices are high or low or falling or rising.

H.

*Reproductions of this article are available from Socialist Party of Canada
Box 237, Victoria, B.C.*

ETHNIC SEPARATISM

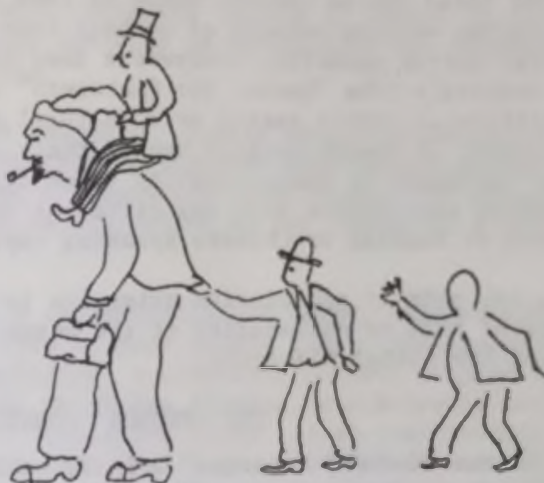
SCOTTING FOR EVERYBODY, EXCEPT THE WORKING CLASS

AND THE FLESH OF THERE, EXCEPT THE CAPITALIST CLASS?

Approximately 90% of the population of the Province of Quebec are members of that well known class of people who do not share in the ownership of the means of production and distribution.

Consequently, to survive they must, like members of that class elsewhere, sell the only commodity they own, their mental and physical energies for a price (called wage) to

the buyers, that is, that other class that does monopolize the means of production.



A majority of them speak a different language to that spoken by others of their class in the rest of Canada. In one way of course, the vocabulary used by workers in all countries is similar. Words such as payday, poverty, mortgage, debt, alarm clock, worry, fear, booze, television, dope, etc. are commonly used by that class of people who are forced to sell their life force to a boss, everywhere; in Moscow as much as in Montreal; in London as in New York. Linguistically the words will be pronounced differently, but the meanings will be the same, because the social environment is basically the same. We of the Companion Parties for world Socialism insist that the problems that the workers of the world have in common are much more relevant than are the linguistic and national divisions that the capitalists of the earth have their underlings corralled in.

In this age of the global village concept, where technology has made the earth so small, in geographical terms alone, the concept of single countries such as Canada is politically antedeluvian in relation to working class problems. To divide the social fraction known as Canada into a smaller fraction yet, while leaving the wages prices profit arrangement untouched and to call this a step forward for the workers of Quebec is an absurdity of the first water. An absurdity that unfortunately does not loom large in competition with the whole field of absurdities fed to the useful class in society to induce their loyalty to the economic relationship of wage-labor and capital.

PROFIT KNOWS NO NATIONALITY

A large part of the capital (wealth used to create more wealth through the exploitation of wage-labor) now invested in Quebec is U.S. or Canadian owned. But local intellectuals - entrepreneurs in Quebec have hungry eyes on these "foreign" holdings. Surplus value, or profit, comes from the unpaid labor of the wage-working class. The employers buy labor-power, that is the workers' energy. In exchange for the price the boss pays for the worker's energy, he gets more than his

energy value in a full day's work. He gets a whole day's labor, a quantity of labor value for which he does not pay one red cent. This is the process of exploitation used in capitalism everywhere, and the source of the immense wealth of the owning class everywhere. Naturally this process must remain unknown to the exploited producers or they would soon stop it. Consequently it is hidden behind false fronts like patriotism, democracy, etc. It follows that if one section of the ruling class (such as the local one in Quebec) wants to take over from another section (like the English speaking section outside of Quebec) they are not going to expose their real intent. Like social parasites everywhere they will hide it behind illusions of classless democracy like "Quebec for Quebecers" etc. They will try to convert a language difference into a racial or a cultural difference; for the purpose of getting the support of Quebec workers behind their selfish, minority interests. No one has yet succeeded in making profits taken from the 8 hour shifts of workers by French speaking capitalists look any different to the same surpluses robbed by English speaking or Russian or Chinese speaking capitalists.

Conversely, the pain of proletarian existence is universal, regardless of the language, color of skin or nationality of the share holders and government bond holders at the top of the social hierarchy.

THE FRENCH CONNECTION

An article in the "Weekend Magazine" 3/1/73, called The French Connection, indicates that in addition to the homegrown leeches, a section of the idle class in Mother France is also casting covetous eyes on the productivity of Quebecois 9 to 5'ers. First indication of this was General de Gaulle's infamous (or famous, depending on which consortium of minority rulers one is cheering for) shout: "Vive le Quebec libre!" Following this came an organization in France, partly financed by the Quebec provincial government and the national government of France, the "France-Quebec Association." One of its champions is Rene Levesque, leader of the separatist Parti-Quebecois. There is also a "Quebec lobby" in the French National Assembly, with a group of prominent French politicians covertly supporting the aim of the province of Quebec becoming a "country in its own right."

A former Montrealler, now working in France says. "We cannot help looking at French Canada politically as well as economically. Its a package deal." When Rene Levesque visited France he "...made a tremendous impression on French leaders in all walks of life..." He even held top level discussions with a famous French banker who gave him advice on how to establish economic ties with the European community, once Quebec has separated."

If French Canadian speaking bosses take over from English-speaking or U.S. owners, and the surpluses exploited from Quebec workers are sold in Europe shall we say, instead of the U.S., just how are Quebec workers thus liberated? Their material consumption is still restricted by the wages they get, whether high or low, just as it is now while working for "foreign" employers. Most of what they produce will still be taken away from them as legitimate profit, with the wages, money, profits system untouched, uncharged. The enemy is capitalism as a system, not one set of oppressors as opposed to another. The chains that bind the working class are in the wages system. The branding iron that left that identifying mark of regimentation on their foreheads is the paycheck. The capitalists of the world rule the workers of the world by ruling the ideas in their heads. Phony ideas like "there have always been bosses and workers," or "national freedom means freedom for everybody." In spite of their sectional differences over who gets whose loot, the rulers of the earth are united on one objective - the workers of the earth must never be allowed to find out how they are fleeced.

SEPARATISM NATIONALISM IS SOCIALISM?

Keeping the workers politically confused is a big industry. A lot of dedicated people work at it. The same weekend article tells us about a Paul Callendra, a former French army officer, as they described it, "turned Socialist militant, who now belongs to the extreme left of the French Socialist Party...(and) whose tone is Marxist." This leftist capitalist ideologist, with a so called Marxist "tone," uses brain washing techniques known to elitist propagandists for over a hundred years, when he equates nationalism with Socialism (shades of Adolph Hitler), equates language with culture, hides the class division in capitalism, and stresses leadership at the expense of understanding.

EXAMPLE - Leadership: (in the German language - Fuhrer-ship), we quote, "I have great admiration for Rene Levesque in that he operates efficiently and effectively. I only hope that when he leads Quebec's separation from Canada, the situation will turn him into a good Socialist. For we are hoping to see Quebec as a good Socialist state."

The concept of a Socialist State is a contradiction of terms. Either there is a state - a coercive executive committee of some ruling class, administering over some subject class, or, there is Socialism, a classless society with no need of a state to keep another class down, but which has instead, a democratic administration functioning for all society. A "Socialist State" is as contradictory as a democratic dictatorship. The class that "calls the shots" in modern society have always been in favor of workers trusting and following leaders, in the hope that they will never be able to see through the smokescreen themselves, understand capitalism and thereby get rid of it.

EXAMPLE - Hiding the class division: We quote again - But the first stage for Quebec is to throw off the Anglo-phone domination. It is the just struggle of a small island of French-speaking people in the midst of a huge Anglo-phone territory. The people of Quebec are victims of oppression..." (Emphasis added). The words "Quebec," "Anglophone," "just" and "people," concept ploys are decoys that have been used since the days of Emmanuel Kant, the first prominent apologist-philosopher the bourgeoisie had to justify and hide the nature of their system from its victims. The intent of the above quotation is to misrepresent the opposition between Quebec and the rest of the country as being classless. Callendra tries to tell us that it is all the "Anglophones" (capitalists AND workers) who are oppressing all of the Quebecois, (Quebecois capitalists and workers alike). He is peddling this insidious B.S. in favor of a Quebec business minority and the French owner minority under the name of Socialism! That oppression is democratic, that is, one nation oppresses another nation, a political fairy tale that can be found in any conservative thought, from Peking to Wall Street.

EXAMPLE - Equates language with culture: (Included with the above quotation). The culture of the workers in Quebec is basically the same, as that of wage slaves elsewhere. Long hours of uninteresting, repetitive tasks, for which they receive a price to keep their energies up, called a wage. While uneasily resting, refueling and worrying, paying bills and otherwise preparing for another day or week of service to the universal boss, they indulge in various escapist activities, of an intensity varying according to the degree of inhumanity of the job. Like television (dream world) autos, alcohol, religion, etc.

While escapism does not consume all the "spare" time of all workers, whatever activities some indulge in, such as creative hobbies to counteract the stultifying job, whatever they do is stamped, degraded, limited by a whole environment of servitude, a lifetime of deliverance of a commodity - labor power, for the greater expansion of capital. Culture, analyzed, means what a people do. Workers spend

very little of their total time watching, or participating in plays, movies, listening to music. These activities in Quebec would involve the French language, instead of English, Russian or Chinese. Their folk heroes, political or otherwise will speak French, but will have the same social relevance as their kind in other countries.

The alleged identity of language and culture is another fraud, and a boost for the disease of nationalism that hides the real enemy, minority class ownership of the means of life.

Separatism is already in existence for French-Canadian workers. Separation from free access to the means of production; and this is the problem. A "solution" to the problem via a different name for Quebec is not the answer. The bloody history of capitalism is replete with examples like English speaking workers who did not know how the next months rent was going to be paid, being trained to go out and kill German speaking workers who could never pay cash for a house. They accepted the myth that members of their own class who spoke a different language in another country were their enemy, and vice versa, because of their ignorance of capitalism. The victims of neither side knew that the real quarrel was between the national groups of bosses who sat back and hoped to win the markets, materials - profits, that their servant-soldiers were unconsciously dying to get for them.

ALGERIA vs FRANCE QUEBEC vs CANADA for "SOCIALISM"

Callandra the leftist then compares the war of Algeria against France with Quebec's struggle with English Canada - "In both cases we have a nationalist struggle that will end by producing a Socialist society," he said. He conveniently overlooks the conundrum that this assumption produces of Quebec achieving "Socialism" with the aid of imperialist France, while Algeria struggled for it in a war against France. After the killing of thousands of Algerian peasants and workers, the budding capitalist class of that country now control, or share control of the Sahara oil reserves and other control and ownership of capital in Algeria. The Algerian working class now supports its own parasite class largely encouraged by the phony common interests of language and "culture." Relations between them are not exactly those of love. The master-slave relationship does not foster togetherness between the victim and the beneficiary. The student riots in that country recently have not been the result of a money-less, classless society of free access and voluntary work that would characterize a Socialist economy.

The Weekend article mentions that Paul Callandra is "an up and coming politician and will be a candidate for the National Assembly at the next elections." The rulers of the earth have a valuable man here, apparently adept at sowing political ignorance and confusion in the minds of the world's useful class, so necessary to keep the exploitation system alive.

Men will never be free from oppression until all work is voluntary and all goods and services are free. Socialism means a world wide society, democratically controlled, without profits, wages or money. It is a practical proposition now.

J.

From CHRIS LUFF's SCRAPBOOK: (How much was Mary worth?) The need of the unemployed in New York is indicated by the thousands of "out-of-works" who are selling apples at street corners throughout the city for five cents. Among the apple sellers has been discovered Mrs. Oscar Hammerstein, widow of the famous opera impresario, who said. "Ladies must eat and it is the best I can do now to earn a living." Her late husband built the London Opera House ... and was said to have lost a quarter of a million pounds in the venture. (date unknown)

ECOLOGY VERSUS CAPITALISM

On the other side, Columbia's governments Bill 42 is an attempt to control rich farm lands, to save them from the real estate developers' asphalt and suburban housing and supermarkets. It has met with stubborn resistance from the farmers of the province. The argument has been advanced that non-wage working farmers with no company pension plans to retire on need the freedom to sell their farms to anybody, at the highest price available so that they will have security in their old age.

With no appeal against possible arbitrary government commission rulings on prices or freedom to sell, large delegations of farmers, led by real estate "developers" and supported by Conservative, Social Credit Liberal politicians demonstrated in front of the legislative buildings recently. Also present at the showing were smaller numbers of environmental protectionists who supported the Land Commission Act. Discussions were heated --- and superficial.

Debating points in favor of the Land Commission act were basically -

- (1) The total area of available, arable soil in B.C. is very small compared to other provinces, and that consumers here cannot rely indefinitely on food imports from the U.S., because fruit and vegetable lands there are being gobbled up too.
- (2) "Green belts" should be saved for the esthetic enjoyment of the general population.

A conservationist group known as the Sierra Club of B.C. published an ad. in favor of Bill 42, citing some figures:

Farmland in B.C. comprises only 2 percent of the total land area.

Farmland is being urbanized at the rate of 10,000 acres per year. This has been the fate of 195,000 acres in the past 20 years.

The Saanich Peninsula has some of the richest land in the province. In the last 20 years, 65,000 acres have been removed from agricultural production.

On the side of the farmers it must be admitted that they should be entitled to a happy old age, secure from the threat of poverty. However there are some fundamental factors that are apparently just beyond the visual perimeter of these gladiators, on both sides of the question.

First, is the casual assumption that food is produced for the purpose of feeding a hungry population. Not so. It is produced primarily to be sold for profit. Naturally it is produced for use too, or it could not be sold. But the sales-profit priority determines how much is produced, as is the case in all other commodities, and of what quality (nutritive value, contamination, adulteration, refinement, etc.).

Secondly, real estate "developers" develop very little except profits for one section of the capitalist class. Their cheap construction methods, in addition to their planned obsolescence and unfit habitations, are visual eyesores inflicted on the general public.

In this respect the whole capitalist class in general, as opposed to that splinter that is profiting from real estate, wants to maintain its working class on a minimum level of health and exploitability. Consequently it has a class interest in keeping food and natural environment factors on a survival plane at least. A Socialist from Britain once described America as - "The land of the free,--and those who work for them." It shouldn't be necessary to point out that the same applies to all countries. In this respect, Bill 42 is a savior of capitalism. The crusading ecologists would object to this analysis, but they do not necessarily see present society as a class divided arrangement.

THE GREATEST GOOD FOR THE GREATEST NUMBER --- OF CAPITALISTS

The ecologists will also tend to view the New Democratic Party through the rose colored glasses (one pair handed out to each member of the working public by the boss controlled mass media) of a political party dedicated to "all the people." There are many other things, besides trying to save some land, that the present government is doing, that the ecologists do not like at all. Things it cannot help doing, because it is running the system for the only class it can be run for, to the detriment of the majority. While arguing the merits of Bill 42, ecologists will unconsciously isolate it from the "bad" government legislation. The very idea that if conservation of some land was not in the interests of the ruling section of society, that present efforts to do so would not have materialized would sound ludicrous to them.

There is nothing wrong with the idea of socially oriented industrial production. There is much wrong with profit oriented industrial production. Capitalism started to foul the earth as soon as it came into existence a relatively long time ago in Europe and Britain, on a small scale. Because the system itself was then on a small scale. It has been desecrating on an expanding curve ever since. A few years ago the degree of destruction has alarmed the free class itself, and the orders went out to the propaganda mills to whip up the concern of the 9 to fiver's to "save us all" from "our own" social excrement.

To be sure, some of the anti-pollution drive springs from independent working class pressure, but how much? To get a better idea of that, how much was there before the media became littered with doomsday lectures and articles on the dangers of pollution?

The point to be made here is that capitalist sponsored anti-pollution measures will never succeed as the final answer to the defiling of the earth. That present society is a class divided one of owners and non-owners of the means of production and distribution. That cost-profit controlled production needs pollution to keep competitive costs down. That pollution will only be checked, controlled, in the interests of capitalism, not abolished.

A classless society of free access, voluntary work, and conscious democratic control would make present chaos and planlessness impossible. Farmers along with the rest of society would have free access to everything they needed, whether too old to produce or not, as a rule of free society. If people want to live in houses, they will do so in the manner, style, quality they desire, without jeopardising farm lands, or anyone else's freedom. Food would be the best because the only motive for producing it would be to feed society.

The degree of motivation for basic social change by the working class is controlled directly by the degree of political ignorance or knowledge they have of the social circumstances they are in. The members of the Companion Parties of Socialism will gladly oblige in the job of sweeping away more of the boss's cobwebs.

J.

SOCIALIST ACTIVITIES:

VICTORIA: P.O. Box 237, Victoria, B.C.
Open air meetings every Sunday 2:30 P.M.
at Beacon Hill Park Speaker's Corner.
Buisness meetings - 1st & 3rd Sundays
Phone: 479-2626 or 382-5927 or 479-4665

WINNIPEG: P.O. Box 115, Winnipeg, Man.

VANCOUVER: Buisness meeting last Sun.
of every month. For information contact
P.O. Box 1031, Stn. A, Vancouver 1, B.C.
or phone 688-3250.

MONTREAL: le Parti Socialiste du Canada
C.P. 244, Pointe-Aux-Trembles 500 Québec
Journal: SOCIALISME MONDIAL 6 numéros \$1

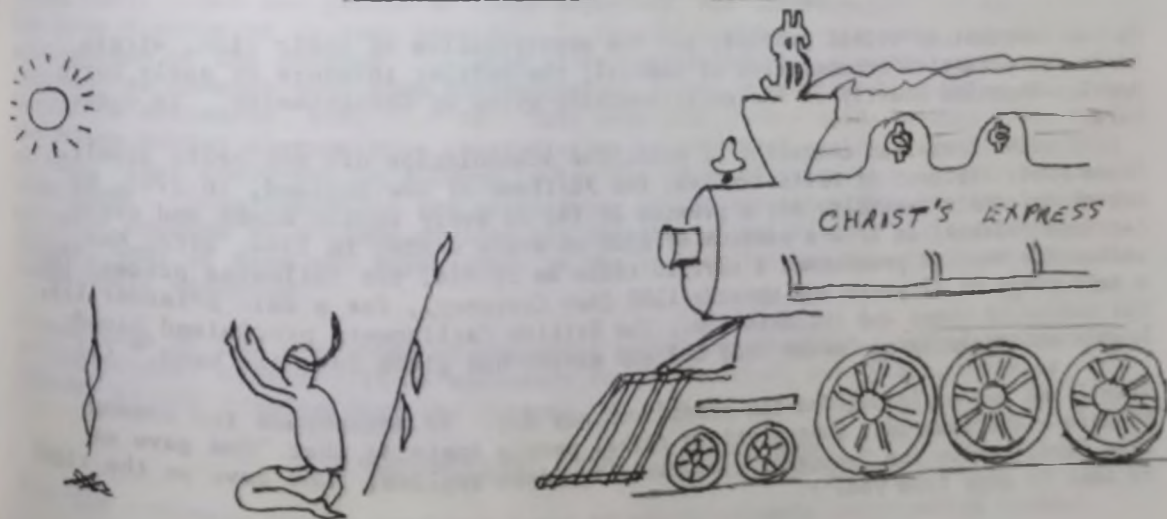
NEEDED -- Some Social Science

On February 27, about two hundred Oglala Sioux, members or fellow travellers of the American Indian Movement seized control of some buildings in the hamlet of Wounded Knee, on the Pine Ridge Reserve in South Dakota, in an attempt to attract attention to the plight of U.S. Indians and to achieve concessions from the U.S. government.

The area was immediately sealed off by federal marshals and after a month of negotiation with government bureaucrats, random pot-shots of rifle fire between the Indians and the forces of "law and order", the A.I.M. group is still sitting in Wounded Knee, beyond "law and order." However, in the last few days it seems that the more incensed of the executive personalities in the occupation force have lost credence with the majority, and have been replaced with spokesmen reflecting the main view of more compromise with the powers of U.S. authority.

It seems that the confrontation will soon end, with some tiny points won. Perhaps the Indians will gain the right to elect their native administrators in their concentration camps in place of having them imposed by the paternal father in Washington. Or possibly have an audit done on the books of the reserve government, to see if their administrator has been selfishly cheating on his own people. Or a government promise to redress some broken promises of the past. Whatever the gains, they will be infinitesimal compared to what needs to be done to solve their problems. And compared to the mountain of uninformed energy consumed, that will end with such insignificant results. (In addition to the courage - hardship, of the occupiers of Wounded Knee, it is reported that 4,000 other Indians from the U.S. and Canada are in towns around Wounded Knee, observing the confrontation, or being arrested trying to get supplies through the blockade to the hold outs). Some background is needed here, to determine what led up to the present series of demonstrations. The Wounded Knee affair is not the first.

GENOCIDE, PERSECUTION, PREJUDICE



Books about the attempted genocide and persecution of natives by the U.S. government, Army and white-skinned civilians have been semi-popular reading in the last few years.

Adolph Hitler and Joe Stalin had no need of basic originality in their method of atrocities against the Jews of Germany and peasants of Russia. All they had to do was adapt the idea to their own needs of time and place. There were plenty of precedents to guide them, committed by national capitalist groups like the British in South-Africa, and British, Belgian and French in the Congo, the Dutch in Java, the U.S. in the south half of North America and others.

United States Workers who read the book, "Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee," (1) usually react with horror, with perhaps the most common comment being - "How could 'my country' do such a thing?" But modern society is a class divided arrangement, supported unconsciously by the majority who think they share in the ownership of a country, (land, factories, mines etc.). If ever their own social problems, along with the problems of the Indians or any minority group are to be dealt with, they must first be able to understand the social causes, that is, the nature of the society in which they find themselves, and what led up to it. Then, in addition to knowing why "my" country "did such a thing," they will also be able to stop nasty things from being done to them now by "their" country.

The average Jane or Joe in the street is not aware that the employer-employee relationship and production for sale for profit is a historically recent phenomena. It hasn't been around very long, and is not feasible for the infinite future either.

Capitalism is the last in line of a series of three phases of a class-property social form, lifting man from the classless democracy of a hunting and fishing economy of tribes, to the classless democracy of an industrial economy of the world. With all its horrors, capitalism was a necessary stage in social evolution. It took the medieval means of production of old Europe (which in its turn had been built up from where the ancient chattel slavery of the Mediterranean basin had left it) and developed it into the world integrated, potential for abundance that it is now operating of necessity without the awareness of those it used. It trampled over any peoples or cultures that stood in the way of its historic mission to convert the earth to its image. It called upon the aid of religious escapism, charity, pseudo-philosophy, phony social science and other ruses to establish and expand capital through the exploitation of wage-labor.

In the conquest of tribal peoples, and the appropriation of their rich, virgin lands for primitive accumulation of capital, the settler invaders of early North America depended heavily on the guilt-soothing syrup of Christianity. To quote Marx:

"...the Christian character of primitive accumulation did not belie itself. Those sober virtuosos of Protestantism, the Puritans of New England, in 1703, by decrees of their assembly, set a premium of £40 on every Indian scalp and every captured redskin; in 1720 a premium of £100 on every scalp; in 1744, after Massachusetts Bay had proclaimed a certain tribe as rebels, the following prices: for a male scalp of 12 years and upwards £100 (new Currency), for a male prisoner £15, for scalps of women and children £50...The British Parliament, proclaimed blood-hounds and scalping as 'means that God and nature had given into its hand.'" (2)

(Civilized man could out-God the primitives any day. To paraphrase two common beliefs - the ignorant, superstitious tribal people insisted that "God gave us this land," while the "superior", educated invaders replied, "God gave us the right to take it away from you.")

This was near the beginning of roughly 200 years of religious destruction and subjugation of North American natives by advancing civilization, later pursued under the banner of "Manifest Destiny," an effective camouflaging phrase, among others. The formally organized violence phase against natives still under the influence of tribal culture ended on a wintry day in 1890, on the banks of Wounded Knee Creek in South Dakota. A group of 120 men and 230 women and children of the Minneconjous Sioux, were surrounded by several troops of Christian, whiskey-drinking cavalrymen, backed up with four Hotchkiss field guns that could be fired with the speed of almost one exploding shell per second.

The group of Indians were fleeing to the hoped for safety of the only great Sioux chief left alive, Red Cloud, when they were intercepted and were being disarmed. Big Foot, chief of the group, dying of pneumonia, raised a white flag of truce in an attempt to prevent a slaughter. One brave objected to handing over his expensive rifle. A shot was fired by someone unknown, and the carnage was on. An estimate of the total dead -- nearly 300, of the original 350 men, women and children. With a blizzard in the offing, the wounded survivors (four men, forty-seven women and children) were loaded into wagons, taken to military headquarters at Pine Ridge.

"Because all barracks were filled with soldiers, they were left lying in the open wagons in the bitter cold while an inept army officer searched for shelter. Finally the Episcopal mission was opened, the benches taken out, and hay scattered over the rough flooring.

It was the fourth day after Christmas in the Year of Our Lord 1890, when the first torn and bleeding bodies were carried into the candlelit church, those who were conscious could see Christmas greenery hanging from the open rafters. Across the chancel front above the pulpit was strung a crudely lettered banner: PEACE ON EARTH, GOODWILL TO MEN." (3)

"Good" and "God" were synonyms of what was good for people who wanted to accumulate property in the form of capital. And still are, generally speaking. The herding of the native North American survivors into compounds was necessary so that early entrepreneurs could grab the rich agricultural lands and minerals for profit. "'Exterminate or banish,' was the cry of land hungry settlers."

In 1865 the "straight talking man," government representative James Steel said to the Cheyennes and Arapahos, "We fully realize that it is hard for any people to leave their homes and graves of their ancestors, but unfortunately for you, gold has been discovered in your country..." General Carlton's statement, after the subjugation of the Navahos: "...When it is considered what a magnificent pastoral and mineral country they have surrendered to us --- a country whose value can hardly be estimated, etc. ..." (4) They were also pushed aside because their free and alien social customs were contradictory to efficient exploitation for the good of God. They could not be allowed to bar the march of progress to higher productive forms. Discrimination and persecution of Indians since then has been an inevitable outcome of a class divided civilization of politically illiterate wage-slaves, many of whom are desperately on the lookout for any minority on which to blame their miseries.

A knowledge of the evolution of preceding social organizations, and of the nature of the present system will be necessary for all victims, red, black, white or yellow, to win freedom from the present rat race.

TWO MILLION YEARS WITHOUT GREED

When the employer versus employee types of social struggle-organization invaded

North America, the original inhabitants were still enjoying the tribal Socialism that was man's prevalent form for the first 99.5 percent of his total time as a species.

The first 2 stages of private property slavery had been traversed in the last 5000 years, in Asia Europe. The avaricious pioneers of yesteryear were initiating the third property phase -- the wage-slavery of capitalism to this continent.

Tribal society was classless, democratic, beautiful by comparison. "There can be no poor and needy," said Engels in describing tribal society. "All are free and equal, including the women. There is as yet no room for slaves, ... nor the subjugation of alien tribes. He continues: "And the kind of men and women that are produced by such a society is indicated by the admiration felt by all white men who came into contact with uncorrupted Indians, admiration of the personal dignity, straightforwardness, strength of character and bravery of these barbarians. This is what mankind and human society were like before class divisions arose. And if we compare their condition with that of the overwhelming majority of civilized people today, we will find an enormous gulf between the present day proletarian ... and the ancient free member of a gens." To quote him further "... however ... this organization was doomed to extinction; It never developed beyond the tribe; the confederacy of tribes already signified the commencement of its downfall. The power of these primordial communities had to be broken. But it was broken by influences which ... appear to us as a degradation, a fall from the simple grandeur of the ancient gentile society. The lowest interests --- base greed, brutal sensuality, sordid avarice, selfish plunder of common possessions --- usher in the new, civilized, class society. And the new society ... has never been anything but the development of the small minority at the expense of the exploited and oppressed great majority; and it is so today more than ever before. (5)

And in turn, the socially free Indians could not understand the class divided duplicity of the invaders. Bitterly describing the behavior of civilized man, Tatanka Yotanka, the commander of the Sioux & Cheyenne warriors who defeated General Custer at the battle of the Little Big Horn, (Chief Sitting Bull) said: "The love of possession is a disease with them. These people have made many rules that the rich may break, but the poor may not. They take tithes from the poor and weak to support the rich who rule... this mother earth of ours, they deface her with their refuse." (6)

Tribal Socialism had no words for lying, cheating, greed, in their languages, for these were civilized names for the class divided human behavior of a competitive social system. Their system stressed the individual, it existed for the individual. Honesty, sharing, were necessary for individual self interest. (From each according to ability, to each according to need). It follows naturally that it was co-operative, not predatory. Through the eons of time, tribal socialism, coexistent with the conscious use of tools, was what made man, biologically the highly developed individual he is today.

WHAT NOW?

It does not require much thought to fathom the reluctance of today's Indians to completely embrace the half-hearted motivations that keep 9 to 5'ers in semi-conscious locomotion. Bleeding heart liberals often lament that Indians no longer have identity, or purpose in life while urging their full integration with current society. But the fact that wage-workers do not have real identity or a satisfying life purpose is enough to discourage any "outsider" from joining the rat-race, even if he was assured before-hand that he was not going to be regarded as an inferior species.

leaving the small prison of the reserve to amalgamate with the bigger jail of capitalism is not the answer. Capitalism is so divisive it even forces divisions among the Indians. Political intrigues and charges of administrative cheating and financial corruption take place between Indians on the reserve, and between their various reform groups. Indeed these were some of the capitalist produced grievances involved in the latest stunt by the A.I.M. at Wounded Knee. Nor is the sad plea of the militants at Wounded Knee for an Indian nation within the U.S. nation the answer. Recognized by the U.N. as they wanted it, where the Indians would be free to try to regress to the ancient primitivism of their forefathers. Capitalism will leave nobody alone, until a majority consciously organize to get rid of it.

For Indians, the direction to move is toward a new social organization to replace the present one of class schism. Back in 1832, Black Hawk of the Sauk and Fox tribes, in his surrender speech said among other things: "They (the white men) poison the heart. Black Hawk's men will not be scalped, but in a few years they will become worse, like the white men. And then you cannot hurt them. And we too, as in the white men's settlements, will have as many officers as men, in order to take care of them and keep them in order. Farewell my people." (7) His observation of the compulsion inherent in the social autocracy that had crushed his kind was accurate. People did not have to be forced to be good or kept in order in his old, free social arrangement. The modern version of being "good", that is functioning as an obedient, docile producer of surplus values for an alien class of owners, naturally must be enforced or cajoled. But Black Hawk was wrong thinking that when Indians become "like the white men...then you cannot hurt them." The workers of the world today are an unhappy majority. The misery statistics of alcoholism, crime, drug addiction, mental illness are ever on the increase.

To the violence prone American Indian Movement we suggest that capitalism needs "as many officers as men", but capitalism's regimentation is not maintained through the force of violence. The "officers" are mainly propagandists of the capitalist controlled media, who mentally condition their own people, and any other color, creed or nationality they can mentally snare. They bombard ones ears with the notion that buying, selling, profits, wages and the struggle to stretch them from payday to payday is a natural, unchangeable law, that will be with us, "as long as the wind blows and rivers flow," as though no other social form ever existed or ever will. And this is equated with freedom. This political fairy tale is just as empty as some of the promises made to the Indians in their treaties of long ago. The same kind of lies and deceit that were used to destroy the Indians' old, free, tribal ways and condemned them to a living death on reserves are used to perpetuate the class dominated system that moved in. Since the top strata depends mainly upon control of the minds of the workers, it is logical that this is the area that workers everywhere must deal with. Shake off the phony political ideas from above. Understand capitalism so that it can be ended, and establish a new Socialism. Not the scattered kind of the past. That is impossible. An integrated, world kind of Socialism that fits in with the industrialization of today. Common ownership and democratic control. No nations, no money, no armies or police, no classes of course, no state. Free access and social responsibility.

- (1) "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee", by Dee Brown.
- (2) "Capital", Volume 1, pages 825-26, by Karl Marx, Charles Kerr ed.
- (3) "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee", page 418.
- (4) Pages 64, 97, 31.
- (5) "The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State", by Frederick Engels.
- (6) "Touch The Earth", compiled by T.C. McLuhan, Sitting Bull replying to General Terry's request to return to the U.S. from Canada.
- (7) From an article in "Earth" titled "Indian Oratory".